

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The bearing element according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 4, **wherein** said arm is a longitudinal element joined to said frame by first joint means.

4. (currently amended) A bearing element for stringed musical instruments comprising a mainly vertically arranged frame suitable for being placed on a bearing surface and provided with support means defining contact areas able to receive the body of said instrument, **wherein** each of said support means comprises a couple of mutually opposed jaws slidingly coupled to said support means and joined together through regulation means able to modify in a continuous way the distance between said jaws, each of said jaws comprising a shaped body which defines a concave surface bounding on one side of said contact areas;

wherein each of said support means further comprises an arm protruding from said frame to which it is coupled; and

~~The bearing element according to claim 2, **wherein** said regulation means comprise a linear guide obtained on the upper surface of said arm, and a linear counter-guide obtained on the lower surface of each of said jaws and inserted in said linear guide.~~

5. (original) The bearing element according to claim 4, **wherein** said regulation means further comprise a pin, applied on a first of said jaws, which is slidingly inserted in a blind hole obtained in a second of said jaws opposed to said first jaw.

6. (original) The bearing element according to claim 4, **wherein** said linear guide has a substantially C-shaped transversal sectional profile.

7. (original) The bearing element according to claim 4, **wherein** said linear counter-guide has a substantially T-shaped transversal sectional profile.

8. (original) The bearing element according to claim 3, **wherein** said first joint means comprise a clasp snap-coupled with said frame.

9. (original) The bearing element according to claim 8, **wherein** said arm is provided at one end with a pin inserted in a through hole obtained in said clasp.

10. (currently amended) A bearing element for stringed musical instruments comprising a mainly vertically arranged frame suitable for being placed on a bearing surface and provided with support means defining contact areas able to receive the body of said instrument, **wherein** each of said support means comprises a couple of mutually opposed jaws slidingly coupled to said support means and joined together through regulation means able to modify in a continuous way the distance between said jaws, each of said jaws comprising a shaped body which defines a concave surface bounding on one side of said contact areas;

wherein each of said support means further comprises an arm protruding from said frame to which it is coupled;

wherein said arm is a longitudinal element joined to said frame by first joint means;

wherein said first joint means comprise a clasp snap-coupled with said frame;

wherein said arm is provided at one end with a pin inserted in a through hole obtained in said clasp; and

~~The bearing element according to claim 9, wherein~~ from said pin is protruding a first couple of mutually opposed tangs, snap-disposed against a stubbed portion made in the internal wall of said through hole, to avoid the accidental separation of said arm from said clasp.

11. (original) The bearing element according to claim 9, **wherein** each of said jaws is arranged against said body of said instrument by rotating around the rotation axis determined by said pin to stably ensure said musical instrument to said frame.

12. (original) The bearing element according to claim 8, **wherein** said frame consists of two longitudinal bars mutually connected by joint means.

13. (original) The bearing element according to claim 12, **wherein** each of said longitudinal bars is provided with a plurality of through holes which are arranged on at least a length portion of each of said longitudinal bars, each of them being able to receive the snap-inserted clasp.

14. (currently amended) A bearing element for stringed musical instruments comprising a mainly vertically arranged frame suitable for being placed on a bearing surface and provided with support means defining contact areas able to receive the body of said instrument, wherein each of said support means comprises a couple of mutually opposed jaws slidingly coupled to said support means and joined together through regulation means able to modify in a continuous way the distance between said jaws, each of said jaws comprising a shaped body which defines a concave surface bounding on one side of said contact areas;

wherein each of said support means further comprises an arm protruding from said frame to which it is coupled;

wherein said arm is a longitudinal element joined to said frame by first joint means;

wherein said first joint means comprise a clasp snap-coupled with said frame;

wherein said frame consists of two longitudinal bars mutually connected by joint means; and

~~The bearing element according to claim 12,~~ **wherein** said joint means comprise a couple of mutually complementary profiled appendixes, each of them provided on a second end of the ~~comb-shaped~~ longitudinal bars respectively, to mutually interpenetrate.

15. (original) The bearing element according to claim 14, **wherein** each of said profiled appendixes comprises a pin placed between two contiguous elements of said comb, which is slidingly coupled with a groove made on the lateral surface of an element of said comb belonging to the other of said profiled appendixes.

16. (original) The bearing element according to claim 15, **wherein** said groove comprises:

- a substantially linear portion extending from the lateral edge to the central portion of each of said profiled appendixes, in which said pin for coupling said longitudinal bars slides;
- an enlarged section of substantially circular shape, made in said central portion of each of said profiled appendixes, inside which said pin rotates to allow the mutual opening of said longitudinal bars according to an angle substantially comprised from 0° and 90°.

17. (original) The bearing element according to claim 16, **wherein** said enlarged section is provided with a step made along a peripheral portion of said enlarged section.

18. (original) The bearing element according to claim 17, **wherein** said step describes an arc of a circumference substantially variable from 0° and 90° and comprised between two counterpart walls.

19. (original) The bearing element according to claim 17, **wherein** said step is provided with a plurality of ribs to which is coupled a stop element, placed adjacent to said pin belonging to the opposite profiled appendix, in order to block in different positions the opening between said longitudinal bars.

20. (original) The bearing element according to claim 12, **wherein** each of said longitudinal bars leans on a substantially horizontally arranged base suitable for being put in contact with said bearing surface, to which is connected by second joint means.

21. (currently amended) A bearing element for stringed musical instruments comprising a mainly vertically arranged frame suitable for being placed on a bearing surface and provided with support means defining contact areas able to receive the body of said instrument, **wherein** each of said support means comprises a couple of mutually opposed jaws slidingly coupled to said support means and joined together through regulation means able to modify in a continuous way the distance between said jaws, each of said jaws comprising a shaped body which defines a concave surface bounding on one side of said contact areas;

wherein each of said support means further comprises an arm protruding from said frame to which it is coupled;

wherein said arm is a longitudinal element joined to said frame by first joint means;

wherein said first joint means comprise a clasp snap-coupled with said frame;

wherein said frame consists of two longitudinal bars mutually connected by joint means;

wherein each of said longitudinal bars leans on a substantially horizontally arranged base suitable for being put in contact with said bearing surface, to which is connected by second joint means; and

~~The bearing element according to claim 20,~~ **wherein** said second joint means comprise a second couple of mutually opposed tangs placed at the first end of each of said longitudinal bars, which are snap-coupled in a wall made in a cavity present in the intermediate portion of said base.

22. (original) The bearing element according to claim 20, **wherein** each of said longitudinal bars is arranged according to a longitudinal axis which defines an acute angle with a vertical reference axis, for the inclined support of said instrument on said frame.

23. (original) The bearing element according to claim 20, **wherein** said base is provided with profiled feet arranged at the opposite ends of said base for granting a correct and stable support of said frame on said bearing surface.

24. (currently amended) The bearing element according to claim [[1]] 4, **wherein** said frame and said support means are made of plastic material.

25. (new) The bearing element according to claim 10, **wherein** said frame and said support means are made of plastic material.

26. (new) The bearing element according to claim 14, **wherein** said frame and said support means are made of plastic material.